

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicant hereby affirms the provisional election made by telephone on October 7, 2003 to Group I, claims 1-3 and 16-18. Claims 4-15 and 19-23 are canceled.

Claims 1, 16-18 and 24-37 are presently pending. Each of the independent claims 1, 16, 36 and 37 include limitations not disclosed by, nor made obvious in view of, the prior art.

Claims 1, 36 and 37 now include limitations of a “visual indicator” being expanded into “multiple expanded visual indicators”. The expanded indicators (e.g., “nodes”) correspond to sub-operations of an operation represented by the original visual indicator (e.g., a “complex node” – See, e.g., page 15 of Applicant’s specification).

Claim 16 has been amended to recite “accepting signals from the user input device to display a particular node as multiple nodes corresponding to multiple sub-operations of an operation associated with the particular node”.

The prior art does not show the expansion of a complex node into sub-operations represented by additional nodes or “multiple expanded visual indicators”. Hekmatpour’s nodes are used on a one-to-one basis where each icon represents an operation. Hekmatpour does not disclose any expansion of the icons. Esslinger provides additional information about “states” of “objects” in windows on a display. See, e.g., Esslinger’s Figure 7. However, the additional information represents information about an object and is not an expansion of sub-operations that are represented by an object. Esslinger at col. 11, lines 45-51.

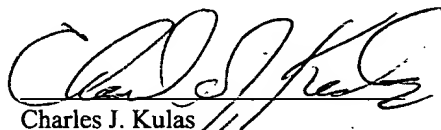
Thus, limitations of Applicant’s independent claims are neither disclosed by, nor rendered obvious in view of, the prior art. The combination of prior art references does not teach the claimed invention and there is no reference that teaches combining the cited references in order to achieve the present invention. Additional limitations are provided in the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-279-5098.

Respectfully submitted,

August 19, 2004

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles J. Kulas', written over a horizontal line.

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